

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 069464

61

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

1. HIGHLIGHTS. TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED  
MIDEAST AND INDOCHINA. NYNEWS EDITORIALIZED ON CSCE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 069464

1A. TUESDAY BALTSUN INSIDE REPORTED FORD TRIP OUTLOOK

GLOOMIER. WASHSTAR REPORTED GERM WAR DEFENSE LACKING; WEDNESDAY STAR SAID CHEMWAR BAN SNAGGED IN RED TAPE, ALSO LATEST ARMS MARKUP FUELS CRITICISM. WEDNESDAY PAPERS REPORTED GISCARD INSISTS ON ATOMIC ARMS FOR DEFENSE OF FRANCE.

1B. THURSDAY PAPERS INSIDE HAVE JACKSON PROPOSES ARMS-CURB STEP; ALSO HAIG SEES NIXON, WILL SEE FORD ON ANNUAL DUTY VISIT TO HEAD OF STATE. NYTIMES HAS U.S. TELLS LISBON MOVE TO LEFT ENDANGERS NATO; ALSO NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION SUSPENDS NUCLEAR IMPORT-EXPORT TRADE PENDING REVIEW OF PROCEDURES. WASHPOST HAS HARRIS SURVEY ON PRESIDENT.

2. ARMS CURBS. THURSDAY NYTIMES WASHINGTON SPECIAL REPORTS JACKSON PROPOSES U.S. AND SOVIET UNION AGREE NOT TO MODERNIZE 700 OF THEIR STRATEGIC WEAPONS AS A STEP

TOWARD FUTURE REDUCTIONS IN THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS, STORY SAYING HE SUGGESTED THIS NEW APPROACH TO ASSURE THAT VLADIVOSTOK CEILINGS WOULD LEAD TO SUBSEQUENT MUTUAL REDUCTIONS IN NUCLEAR FORCES, JACKSON TELLING SENATE HE WAS CONCERNED LEST VLADIVOSTOK ESTABLISH A FLOOR RATHER THAN CEILING ON FUTURE LEVELS OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS. PROPOSAL IS THAT TREATY NOW BEING NEGOTIATED PROVIDE THAT BOTH SIDES DESIGNATE 700 WEAPONS NOT TO BE MODERNIZED BEFORE TREATY EXPIRES IN 1985 WHEN, JACKSON ARGUED, THESE OLDER, PROBABLY OBSOLETE, WEAPONS WOULD BECOME LOGICAL CANDIDATES FOR DISMANTLING AS THE TWO NATIONS ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON REDUCING THEIR STRATEGIC ARSENALS.

2A. THURSDAY WASHPOST UNSIGNED STORY SAYS JACKSON PROPOSED 30 PERCENT CUT IN NUCLEAR STRATEGIC LEVELS WHICH HE SAID MIGHT SAVE UP TO 70 BILLION DOLLARS IN NEXT DECADE, STORY CALLS JACKSON'S PRESENT FORMULA A SIGNIFICANT VARIATION FROM HIS ORIGINAL OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION TO VLADIVOSTOK CEILINGS. INSTEAD OF REDUCING THE 2400-MISSILE CEILING, A PROPOSAL WHICH THE FORD ADMINISTRATION REJECTED, NEW CONCEPT WOULD OPERATE WITHIN THOSE CEILINGS AS EACH SIDE WOULD DESIGNATE 700 OF ITS OLDER WEAPONS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 069464

(LAND- OR SEA-BASED MISSILES, OR BOMBERS) QUOTE TO REMAIN UNMODERNIZED OVER THE LIFETIME OF THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT UNQUOTE; AND THIS EARMARKING OF OLDER WEAPONS FOR ELIMINATION WOULD SET STAGE AHEAD OF TIME FOR SCRAPPING THEM, JACKSON ADDING: NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT SCHEDULING THE PHASEOUT OF THE 700 SYSTEMS DESIGNATED ON EACH SIDE COULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER A SALT TWO TREATY IS RATIFIED. STORY REPORTS JACKSON SAID THIS QUALIFICA-

TION AS QUOTE A CODICIL TO THE SALT TWO TREATY WOULD GREATLY INCREASE ITS APPEAL TO CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE UNQUOTE AND SAVE MANY BILLIONS. BUT, SAID JACKSON, IF EACH SIDE PLANS A FORCE OF 2400 MODERNIZED DELIVERY SYSTEMS NOW IT MAY WELL PROVE IMPOSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE LOWER CEILINGS IN LATER YEARS, AND RUSSIANS WILL WORK AT FULL SPEED TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF 2400 MISSILES INCLUDING 1320 NEW MIRVS. STORY SAYS THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE REACTION FROM FORD ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WHO SAID THEY WANTED TO STUDY THE PROPOSAL.

2B. TUESDAY BALTSUN TREWHITT WASHINGTON REPORTED THE POLITICAL SIGNALS FOR FORD'S TRIPS TO EUROPE AND TO ASIA ARE FLICKERING RED, OR AT BEST FROZEN ON YELLOW, AS DIPLOMATIC IMPLICATIONS OF BOTH ARE BECOMING MORE COMPLEX. UNDER EARLIER HOPES, SAID TREWHITT, FORD WOULD HAVE GONE TO HELSINKI IN SPRING, ALSO VISITED OTHER

CAPITALS AND NATO AND RECEIVED BREZHNEV HERE IN JUNE OR JULY. ACCORDING TREWHITT, TODAY'S U.S. POSITION IS THAT FORD CANNOT GO UNLESS SOVIET UNION IS MORE FORTHCOMING ON DECLARATIONS FAVORING PEACEFUL CHANGES OF BORDERS AND EXCHANGES OF IDEAS AND PEOPLE, ALTHOUGH SOME AMERICAN DIPLOMATS FEAR THE PRESIDENT MAY DECIDE TO FLY TO HELSINKI WITHOUT SUFFICIENT REASON. TREWHITT SAYS THE PRECISE SEQUENCE OF THE FORD AND BREZHNEV TRIPS IS IMPORTANT TO U.S. OFFICIALS, SOME BELIEVING BREZHNEV WOULD LIKE TO COME TO WASHINGTON AND FIGURATIVELY LEAD THE U.S. PRESIDENT TO HELSINKI, THE OFFICIALS NOT CARING FOR THIS IDEA.

2C. WEDNESDAY WASHSTAR GUIDRY REPORTED THAT WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A BUREAUCRATIC SNAG HAS HELD UP THE FINAL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 069464

FORMAL STEP THAT WOULD MAKE U.S. PARTY TO GENEVA PROTOCOL ON CHEMWAR AFTER 50 YEARS OF CONTROVERSY. GUIDRY SAYS ELEVENT HOUR QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED WITHIN THE WHITE HOUSE, ACCORDING TO CONGRESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATION SOURCES, AND THE EXECUTIVE ORDER SPELLING OUT THE RESERVATIONS ON TEAR GAS AND HERBICIDES IS BEING HELD UP, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE HOPES THAT THE ORDER WILL SHAKE LOOSE SOON AND THAT THE TREATY WILL BE DEPOSITED, ACCORDING TO ONE MEMBER OF THE ARMS CONTROL COMMUNITY. GUIDRY ADDS THAT MEANWHILE STATE DEPARTMENT PLANNED CEREMONY FOR WEDNESDAY, TO BE DUPLICATED IN LONDON AND MOSCOW, TO JOIN FORMALLY IN THE 1972 GENEVA AGREEMENT ON BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS.

3. DEFENSE. WEDNESDAY WASHSTAR GUIDRY REPORTED NEW

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT FIGURES SHOW ANOTHER SHARP INCREASE IN COST OF ACQUIRING MAJOR WEAPONS SYSTEMS AT A TIME WHEN CONGRESS IS CLOSELY SCRUTINIZING A RECORD DEFENSE BUDGET REQUEST. FIGURES GIVEN IN THE SELECTED ACQUISITION REPORTS, SAYS GUIDRY, DO NOT BEAR DIRECTLY ON DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BUT INCREASE OF 8.5 BILLIONS IN PAST THREE MONTHS MAY WEIGH HEAVILY IN CONGRESSIONAL VOTING. GUIDRY SAYS PROJECTED B-1 BOMBER PRICE INCREASE FROM 76.4 MILLION PER PLANE TO 84.3 MILLION WAS TELEGRAPHED EARLIER TO CONGRESS WHERE IT ADDED MORE FUEL TO THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE NEW PLANE.

3A. TUESDAY WASHSTAR GUIDRY REPORTED U.S. FORCES DO NOT AT PRESENT HAVE AN EFFECTIVE MEANS TO DETECT THE ONSET OF A BIOLOGICAL ATTACK, ACCORDING TO PENTAGON OFFICIALS. GUIDRY SAYS A PRIMARY GOAL OF BIOLOGICAL DEFENSIVE

RESEARCH PROGRAM HAS BEEN AN EFFECTIVE DETECTION SYSTEM. GUIDRY QUOTES DR. MALCOLM CURRIE, DIRECTOR OF PENTAGON R & D, RECENTLY TELLING CONGRESS: VULNERABILITY ANALYSES OF OUR CAPABILITIES TO MEET A BIOLOGICAL THREAT HAVE IDENTIFIED DEFICIENCIES IN OUR DEFENSIVE POSTURE. ACCORDING GUIDRY, MILITARY SPOKESMEN HAVE DESCRIBED SOVIET CAPABILITIES AS PERHAPS THE BEST IN THE WORLD IN AREA OF CHEMICAL WARFARE BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO COMPARABLE RECENT ESTIMATES OF SOVIET BIOLOGICAL WARFARE  
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PAGE 05 STATE 069464

CAPABILITY, A FIELD IN WHICH INTELLIGENCE IS MORE DIFFICULT TO GATHER.

4. POLL. TODAY'S WASHPOST HEADS HARRIS SURVEY REPORT, FORD FOREIGN POLICY RATING DIPS, BUT THE DIPS SINCE JANUARY APPEAR TO BE QUITE SLIGHT. ON HANDLTNG RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA THE MARCH FIGURES ARE 36 PERCENT POSITIVE (EXCELLENT OR PRETTY GOOD) AND 49 PERCENT NEGATIVE (ONLY FAIR OR POOR), WHEREAS IN JANUARY THE RESPECTIVE FIGURES WERE 36 AND 48. ON HANDLING MIDEAST CRISIS, MARCH FIGURES ARE 32 PERCENT POSITIVE AND 58 PERCENT NEGATIVE; ON WORKING FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD, PRESIDENT FORD RECEIVES 50 PERCENT POSITIVE AND 46 PERCENT NEGATIVE-- ONLY SLIGHTLY CHANGED FROM JANUARY. ON HIS TV SPEECHES AND PRESS CONFERENCES, THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED IN MARCH A 51 PERCENT NEGATIVE SCORE AND ON HANDLING RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS, IT WAS 62 PERCENT NEGATIVE.

5. PORTUGAL. THURSDAY NYTIMES BINDER WASHINGTON REPORTS U.S. HAS WARNED THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN PORTUGAL THAT THE LEFTWARD TURN THERE IS INIMICAL TO AMERICAN AND ATLANTIC ALLIANCE INTERESTS, ADDING THAT

TUESDAY'S MESSAGE CONVEYED ESSENTIALLY SAME ADMONITION AS KISSINGER'S NEWS CONFERENCE STATEMENT, WHEN SECRETARY SAID THAT CERTAIN PORTUGUESE POLITICAL PARTIES ARE GETTING INTO A DOMINANT POSITION WHOSE INTERESTS WE WOULD NOT HAVE THOUGHT WERE NECESSARILY FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES. BINDER QUOTES A U.S. OFFICIAL SAYING AMERICAN CONCERNS HAD BEEN RAISED WITH PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT BY CARLUCCI LARGELY IN THE FORM OF QUESTIONS; AND OTHER OFFICIALS SAID FORD ADMINISTRATION WOULD AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE APRIL 25 ELECTION BEFORE ADOPTING MEASURES TO DEAL WITH A LEFTIST GOVERNMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF NATO. ANOTHER OFFICIAL SUGGESTED: WE'LL HAVE TO DENY ACCESS TO THE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS THAT CIRCULATE IN THE ALLIANCE AND DISINVITE THEM TO NATO MEETINGS.

6. CSCE. SUNDAY NYNEWS EDITORIAL SAID RUSSIANS ARE PRESSURING OTHER NATIONS FOR SWIFT, EARLY-SUMMER SUMMIT TO CONCLUDE PROCEEDINGS BEFORE WESTERN NEGOTIATORS HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 069464

SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT EXCHANGING CERTIFICATION OF SOVIET DOMINATION OVER NATIONS CONQUERED IN WAR FOR AN EMPTY BAG OF VAGUE CONCESSIONS. KISSINGER

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